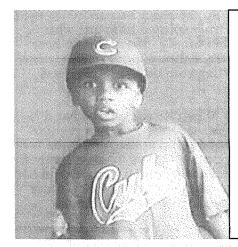
Dayson, from West Haven





Dayson has made great strides in his health since attending Family Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. in 2013, He has since been decanulated – after six years, he has no trach tube! This has opened many doors for him and he is now able to participate in activities he couldn't do before, such as swimming and baseball!

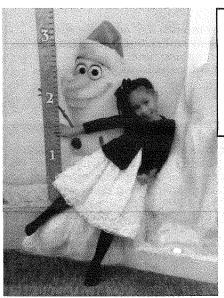
Medicaid continues to make it possible for his family to get his health care from the numerous pediatric specialists he needs. He continues to be followed for his respiratory and cardiac concerns, and still benefits from speech therapy. The complexity of his health care since birth requires comprehensive health insurance, which only Medicaid is able to provide.

"My son Dayson is a happy six year old little boy who was born with many complex medical issues. He has received continued treatment at YNHCH. We are so thankful that he is able to receive the care that he needs within our state. Having a hospital that gives the level of care that Dayson needs in CT has given him opportunities to overcome the medical challenges he's faced. He has gone from needing 23 hours of home nursing care and receiving speech and OT therapy three times a week to becoming an independent first grade student who loves to play baseball. I am confident that this has been possible because of the help of having excellent care at YNHCH and the continued support of the CT Medicaid program."

- Dayson's Mom

Amarey, from West Hartford





While Amarey has grown in height and in her enthusiasm for life since attending the 2014 Family Advocacy Day, she continues to be challenged by sickle cell disease. She has been hospitalized and treated numerous times for the pain and side effects of this disease. Medicaid has allowed Amarey to get the immediate and emergent care she needs for each episode.

"Amarey has had a difficult year, being hospitalized at least 5 times since attending Family Advocacy Day in D.C. last year. She has required blood transfusions each time, which truly worries me. Last month, she was diagnosed with pneumonia and acute chest syndrome. I'm not sure where we would be if we did not have Medicaid to cover the ongoing costs of her medical care or the doctors that understand the complexity of sickle cell disease in children."

-Amarey's Mom

Rebecca – from Shelton





"I don't know what we would do without Medicaid – especially after this most recent hip surgery. Physical therapy is key to her recovery and to the success of the surgery, and she would not be able to get that specialized therapy post-surgery if it were not for Medicaid."

~Rebecca's Mom

Rebecca, who attended Family Advocacy Day in 2012, is now 10 years old. She is a truly spirited little girl who brings laughter and joy to her family. She is shown here with her cat, which she loves. Rebecca is currently recovering from a major orthopedic (hip) surgery (just this week!)

Medicaid is so important to Rebecca's care as she has a long list of pediatric specialists that she sees on a regular basis. Also, she requires ongoing therapies. While the family has private insurance as a primary insurer, there is no benefit for the therapies she needs. If Rebecca did not have Medicaid as a secondary insurer, she would not be able to receive so much of the medical care that is necessary for her complex and multiple diagnoses. Also, due to her chronic and complex needs the co-pays for doctor's visits, medications, etc. would put the family in dire financial situation, as Rebecca is ten now and she will need this level of support for some time yet.

Madeline, from Plainfield





Madeline is an eleven year old girl who underwent a kidney transplant when she was 3 years old. Since then she has had numerous hospitalizations and medical procedures to address any infections or concerns about her body rejecting her kidney. Her family must be very diligent and attentive to any changes in her medical status.

Unfortunately, her body did reject her kidney a few months ago and now she is undergoing dialysis and a workup for a second kidney transplant. This time her mother will be the donor, as this was not an option the first time. Maddie is a very social little girl, who has an older sister she loves. She loves to swim and play outdoors.

"The costs of transporting Maddie for all her medical care (as we live in the northeast region of the state) and the loss of income as a result of missing so much work for her medical care takes such a toll on our family's finances. Thankfully, Medicaid pays for all her medically necessary treatments, hospitalizations and medications. But there is so much more that goes in to caring for a child with serious special health care needs. It is hard for anyone who hasn't gone through it to imagine. There is never enough time or money, even with Medicaid covering her medical costs. I am so thankful for Medicaid; however, her health affects the entire family and coordinating her care is a full-time job. I wish I had more help."

~ Maddie's Mom